



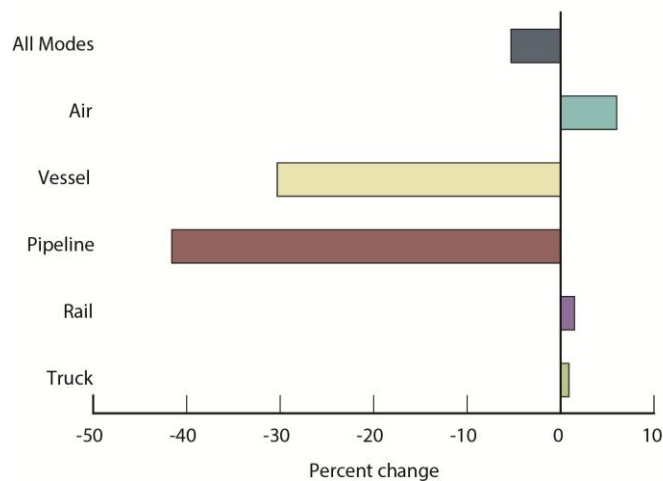
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## BTS Data

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### March 2015 North American Freight Numbers

Figure 1. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode:  
March 2014 - 2015



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

U.S.-NAFTA freight totaled \$96.1 billion in March 2015 as three out of five transportation modes – air, rail, and truck – carried more U.S.-NAFTA freight than in March 2014, according to the TransBorder Freight Data released today by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) (Figure 1, Table 1). Year-over-year, the value of U.S.-NAFTA freight flows by all modes decreased by 5.3 percent. The value of NAFTA trade by pipeline and vessel declined in March due to the reduced unit price of mineral fuel shipments.

## Freight by Mode

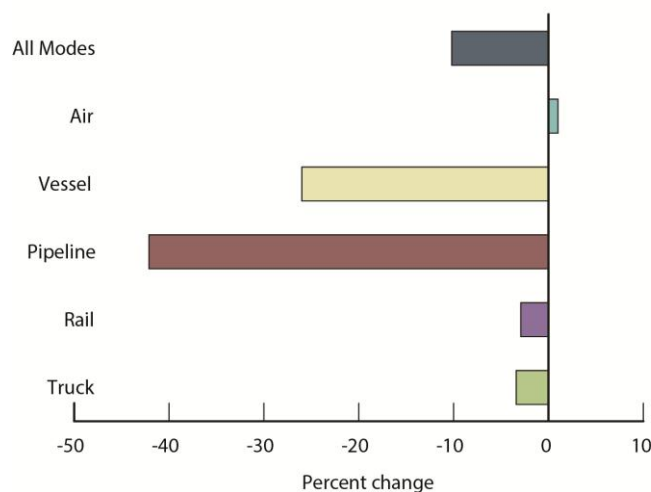
In March 2015 compared to March 2014, the value of commodities moving by air grew by the largest percentage of any mode, 6.0 percent. Rail freight increased by 1.5 percent and truck freight increased by 0.9 percent (Figure 1, Table 2). Vessel freight decreased by 30.3 percent and pipeline freight decreased by 41.6 percent mainly due to the lower unit price of mineral fuel shipments.

Trucks carried 64.0 percent of U.S.-NAFTA freight and are the most heavily utilized mode for moving goods to and from both U.S.-NAFTA partners. Trucks accounted for \$30.6 billion of the \$51.2 billion of imports (59.8 percent) and \$30.9 billion of the \$44.9 billion of exports (68.9 percent) (Table 2).

Rail remained the second largest mode, moving 15.8 percent of all U.S.-NAFTA freight, followed by vessel, 6.2 percent; pipeline, 5.1 percent; and air, 4.1 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 84.9 percent of the total U.S.-NAFTA freight flows (Table 2).

## U.S.-Canada Freight

Figure 2. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-Canada Freight Flows by Mode: March 2014 - 2015



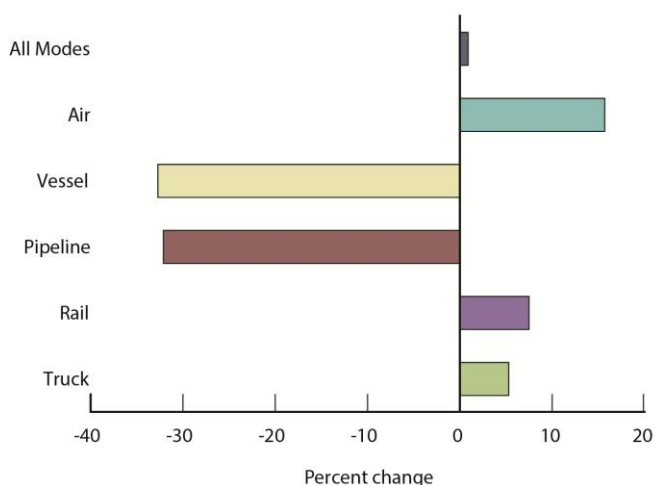
SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

U.S.-Canada freight totaled \$50.8 billion in March 2015 as one out of five transportation modes – air – carried more U.S.-Canada freight than in March 2014. Year-over-year, the value of U.S.-Canada trade by air increased by 1.0 percent. Lower mineral fuel prices contributed to a year-over-year decrease in the value of rail freight, down 2.9 percent. Mineral fuels are a larger share of freight moved by vessel, which declined 26.0 percent, and pipeline down 42.1 percent. A drop in bidirectional trade of vehicles and parts contributed to a 3.4 percent decline in U.S.-Canada truck freight over the same time period (Figure 2, Table 3).

Trucks carried 58.4 percent of the \$50.8 billion of freight to and from Canada, followed by rail, 16.7 percent; pipeline, 9.0 percent; air, 4.9 percent; and vessel, 4.4 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 84.1 percent of the total U.S.-Canada freight flows (Table 3).

## U.S.-Mexico Freight

Figure 3. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode:  
March 2014 - 2015



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

U.S.-Mexico freight totaled \$45.2 billion in March 2015 as three out of five transportation modes – air, rail, and truck – carried more U.S.-Mexico freight than in March 2014. Year-over-year, the value of U.S.-Mexico air freight rose 15.7 percent, the largest percentage increase of any mode. Freight carried by rail increased by 7.5 percent and truck freight increased by 5.3 percent. Pipeline freight decreased by 32.1 percent and vessel freight decreased by 32.7 percent, mainly due to lower mineral fuel prices (Figure 3, Table 4).

Trucks carried 70.3 percent of the \$45.2 billion of freight to and from Mexico, followed by rail, 14.9 percent; vessel, 8.2 percent; air, 3.3 percent; and pipeline, 0.6 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 85.9 percent of the total U.S.-Mexico freight flows (Table 4).

## Commodities

In March 2015, the top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada was vehicles and parts, of which \$5.4 billion, or 59.2 percent, moved by truck (Figure 4). Vehicles and parts replaced mineral fuels as the top commodity this month. Mineral fuels had been the top commodity by value moved between the U.S. and Canada for 29 consecutive months (since November 2012). This change is due, in large part, to a decline in the unit price of mineral fuels in recent months. The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Mexico in March 2015 was vehicles and parts, of which \$4.2 billion, or 48.9 percent, moved by truck and \$3.8 billion, or 45.1 percent, moved by rail (Figure 5).

## Reporting Notes

BTS press releases and the BTS website define surface transportation modes as truck, rail and pipeline. See [North American TransBorder Freight Data](#) on the BTS website for additional data for surface modes since 1995 and all modes since 2004. The category of all modes of transportation cited in the following tables includes freight movements by truck, rail, vessel, pipeline, air, [other](#) and unknown modes of transport.

Data in this press release are not adjusted for inflation. Additional summary data adjusted for inflation and exchange rates can be found on the BTS website under [TransBorder Indexed Freight Flow Data](#). The BLS indexes used in the adjustments for inflation and exchange rates may be revised in each of the three months after original publication. For more information, see [TransBorder Press Releases](#) for previous press releases and summary tables. See [TransBorder Freight Data](#) for data from previous months, and more state, port, or commodity data. BTS has scheduled the release of April TransBorder numbers for June 25.

**Table 1. Value of Monthly U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows**  
(millions of current dollars)

Month	2013	2014	2015	Percent Change 2013-2014	Percent Change 2014-2015
January	90,766	90,326	89,258	-0.5	-1.2
February	88,894	89,557	85,723	0.7	-4.3
<b>March</b>	<b>95,757</b>	<b>101,478</b>	<b>96,070</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>-5.3</b>
April	98,956	100,141		1.2	
May	98,742	103,942		5.3	
June	93,502	102,978		10.1	
July	93,080	101,075		8.6	
August	96,426	100,624		4.4	
September	94,465	102,245		8.2	
October	103,140	108,243		4.9	
November	96,136	96,252		0.1	
December	90,906	95,811		5.4	
<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>275,417</b>	<b>281,361</b>	<b>271,052</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>-3.7</b>
<b>Annual</b>	<b>1,140,770</b>	<b>1,192,671</b>		<b>4.5</b>	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTE: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

**Table 2. Value of Monthly U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation**  
(millions of current dollars)

<b>Mode</b>		<b>March 2014</b>	<b>March 2015</b>	<b>Percent Change March 2014-2015</b>
All Modes	Imports	54,381	51,166	-5.9
	Exports	47,097	44,904	-4.7
	Total	101,478	96,070	-5.3
All Surface Modes	Imports	45,980	44,591	-3.0
	Exports	38,308	37,013	-3.4
	Total	84,287	81,605	-3.2
Truck	Imports	29,758	30,584	2.8
	Exports	31,201	30,935	-0.9
	Total	60,959	61,519	0.9
Rail	Imports	9,429	9,999	6.0
	Exports	5,566	5,219	-6.2
	Total	14,995	15,218	1.5
Pipeline	Imports	6,793	4,008	-41.0
	Exports	1,541	859	-44.2
	Total	8,334	4,867	-41.6
Vessel	Imports	4,928	3,381	-31.4
	Exports	3,590	2,554	-28.9
	Total	8,518	5,935	-30.3
Air	Imports	1,601	1,505	-6.0
	Exports	2,158	2,479	14.9
	Total	3,759	3,984	6.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/TransBorder/TBDR_DataFields.html)

NOTES: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones, and other transportation. For additional detail, please refer to the "Data Fields" section of the TransBorder web page:

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**Table 3. Value of Monthly U.S.-Canada Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation**  
(millions of current dollars)

<b>Mode</b>		<b>March 2014</b>	<b>March 2015</b>	<b>Percent Change March 2014-2015</b>
All Modes	Imports	29,426	25,797	-12.3
	Exports	27,200	25,035	-8.0
	Total	56,626	50,831	-10.2
All Surface Modes	Imports	25,207	22,401	-11.1
	Exports	22,161	20,343	-8.2
	Total	47,369	42,744	-9.8
Truck	Imports	12,871	12,699	-1.3
	Exports	17,877	17,003	-4.9
	Total	30,747	29,702	-3.4
Rail	Imports	5,559	5,702	2.6
	Exports	3,154	2,763	-12.4
	Total	8,713	8,465	-2.9
Pipeline	Imports	6,777	4,001	-41.0
	Exports	1,131	578	-48.9
	Total	7,908	4,578	-42.1
Vessel	Imports	1,770	1,316	-25.6
	Exports	1,260	926	-26.5
	Total	3,029	2,242	-26.0
Air	Imports	990	894	-9.7
	Exports	1,484	1,604	8.1
	Total	2,474	2,499	1.0

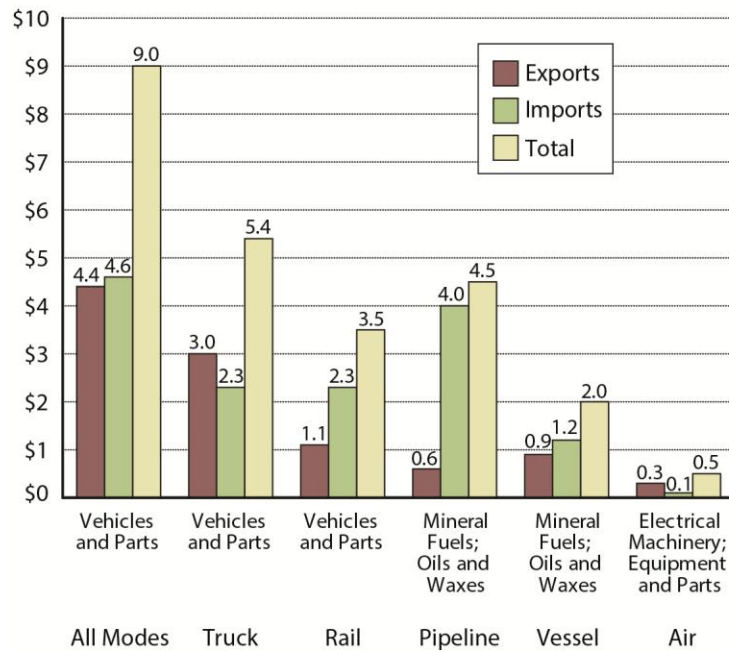
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Figure 4. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Canada for Each Mode of Transportation, March 2015  
(billions of current dollars)



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)  
NOTE: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 4. Value of Monthly U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation

(millions of current dollars)

<b>Mode</b>		<b>March 2014</b>	<b>March 2015</b>	<b>Percent Change March 2014-2015</b>
All Modes	Imports	24,956	25,369	1.7
	Exports	19,897	19,870	-0.1
	Total	44,853	45,239	0.9
All Surface Modes	Imports	20,772	22,190	6.8
	Exports	16,147	16,670	3.2
	Total	36,919	38,860	5.3
Truck	Imports	16,887	17,885	5.9
	Exports	13,324	13,932	4.6
	Total	30,211	31,817	5.3
Rail	Imports	3,869	4,297	11.1
	Exports	2,413	2,456	1.8
	Total	6,282	6,754	7.5
Pipeline	Imports	16	7	-53.1
	Exports	410	282	-31.3
	Total	426	289	-32.1
Vessel	Imports	3,159	2,065	-34.6
	Exports	2,331	1,628	-30.1
	Total	5,489	3,694	-32.7
Air	Imports	610	610	0.0
	Exports	674	875	29.8
	Total	1,284	1,485	15.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

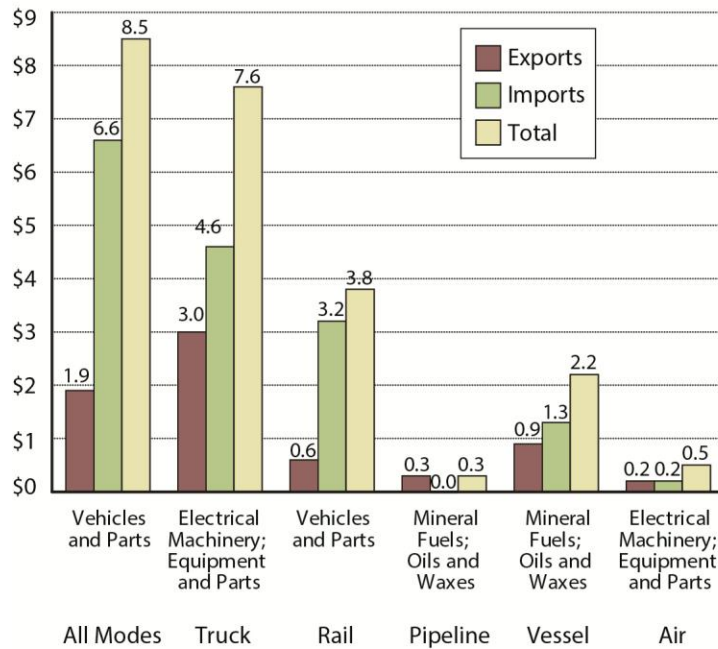
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Figure 5. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Mexico for Each Mode of Transportation, March 2015  
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SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

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